

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY, CANADA
DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
MUSIC 9526A—Schenkerian Analysis: Small Forms
FALL 2026**

Instructor: Dr. Peter Franck

e-mail: pfranck@uwo.ca

Office hours: Monday, 9:30–11:30am, TC-108, or by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Description. This course is an introduction to Schenkerian techniques as applied to small forms (one-part, binary, and contrapuntal) and excerpts of larger forms. Analyses of pieces and readings from the textbook and secondary literature within the Schenkerian field comprise the content of the course. Whereas the course focuses primarily on technical aspects of Schenkerian theory, it also addresses recent appraisals of Heinrich Schenker. Recontextualizing Schenker in this manner confronts some of the questionable motivations that underly his theoretical approach. By uncovering Schenker's chequered past, the course endeavors to reclaim tonal analysis as an activity that welcomes everyone and all types of tonal music.

Graduate Course Learning Objectives. By the end of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Analyze short tonal pieces by creating Schenkerian voice-leading graphs;
- Interpret voice-leading graphs into Schenkerian principles by contributing to class-discussions and writing short prose summaries;
- Critically evaluate secondary literature within the Schenkerian field through class-discussion and prose summaries.

Enrolment Restrictions. Enrolment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music.

Course Materials:

Required Textbook: Allen Cadwallader, David Gagné, and Frank Samarotto *Analysis of Tonal Music: A Schenkerian Approach*, 4th ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020). Textbook only. The textbook costs \$263.15 and the e-book with 180-day access costs \$78 at the Dellece Family Bookstore at Western. Students are welcome to purchase **second-hand** or **earlier editions** of this textbook.

Recommended Texts: Heinrich Schenker, *Free Composition*, ed. and trans. Ernst Oster (New York: Longman, 1979; reprint, Hillsdale, NY: Pendragon Press). [Note: there is a volume of text and a volume of examples.] It is also available online at the library:

https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/f0kqif/alma991044341516105163

Course Timeline and Format. The schedule of topics and due dates for assessments appears on the last page of the document.

Methods of Evaluation. Students must complete three assignments, one presentation, one term paper, prepare and be able to discuss assigned readings in class, and prepare any and all exercises assigned for in-class activity. The assignments are largely analytical, consisting of Schenkerian graphs, though some may also require short prose summaries of said graphs. Due dates for readings and assignments are listed on the Class Schedule (at end of document). Criteria for the presentation and term paper will be distributed later in the semester.

Marking Scheme:

Assignments (3, weighted equally):	25%
Presentation:	25%
Term paper:	50%
Course mark:	100%

Statement on Academic Offences. Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com.

Health/Wellness Services. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support for a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>.

Accessible Education (AE). Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education (AE), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence. Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing website: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). Use of AI tools for the creation of voice-leading graphs, prose, and solutions to any assigned materials or assessments, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Such use of AI tools will count as a scholastic offence.

ASSESSMENTS AND MATERIALS OVERVIEW

Posting of Assignments. All assignments will be posted to Brightspace.

Handing in Assignments. Assignments will be handed in on the days for which they are scheduled (see “Class Schedule” at end of document). Explicit instructions on how to do this will be provided by the instructor.

Handouts, Readings, and Related Class Materials. Students must print out and/or have available handouts, readings, and related materials for each week. Readings are assigned on a weekly basis if not stated otherwise. See the “Class Schedule” for the complete list of readings (**N.B., the reading for the first class**). Students must read, prepare, and be able to discuss within class, each reading. Handouts, readings, and related materials for each week are available on Brightspace by clicking on the appropriate week number located on the left side of the Brightspace site. The week number and the topic/reading to which it corresponds appears within the “Class Schedule” at the end of the document.

Handing in Term Paper. The term paper will be handed in to my office on the due date indicated on the “Class Schedule.” Additionally, an electronic copy of the final paper will be uploaded to Brightspace on the same day (details to follow during the semester). Late submissions will not be accepted.

POLICIES

Marking Scale: A= 80–100%, B=70–79%, C=60–69%, F=0–59%.

Contingency Plan. Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on Brightspace for students to view at their convenience), the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Intellectual Property. Concerning course materials, I, Peter Franck, own the intellectual property (IP) in all the lectures and lecture materials posted online. Given this fact, students are not to post lectures or lecture materials to any other websites, platforms, or LLMs, or use the lecture recording or materials for any other purpose without my consent. Students are also prohibited from recording live lectures and recorded lectures.

Religious Accommodation. When scheduling of course requirements conflicts with religious holidays that require absence from the University or that prohibit or require certain activities on the part of the student, the student will not be penalized for absence because of religious reasons. If a suitable arrangement involving a graduate course cannot be worked out between the student and instructor involved, they should consult the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies). Further information can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

Music 9526a: Fall 2026 Class Schedule: (Topics and Readings subject to change as needed)

Week#	Day	Topic	Text Chapter	Reading	HW
1	Sept. 9	Introduction/Melody and Counterpoint	1, 2	R1	
2	Sept. 16	Melody and Counterpoint	2	R2	
3	Sept. 23	Bass Lines and Harmonic Structure	3	R3	
	Sept. 30	<u>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (non-instructional day).</u>			
4	Oct. 7	Linear Techniques	4	R4	
	Oct. 14	Reading Week: No Class			
5	Oct. 21	Tonal Structure; Techniques of Melodic Prolongation	5, 6	R5	
6	Oct. 28	Techniques of Melodic Prolongation/Some Basic Elaborations of Fundamental Structures	6, 7	R6	HW1
7	Nov. 4	One-Part Forms	8	R7	
8	Nov. 11	One-Part Forms	8	R8	HW2
9	Nov. 18	Binary Forms/Some Common Tonal Patterns	9, 12	R9	
10	Nov. 25	Binary Forms/Some Common Tonal Patterns/Contrapuntal Forms	“	R10	HW3
11	Dec. 2	In-Person Meetings (or Presentations, if needed)			
12	Dec. 9	Presentations			

Due date for paper: December 16, 2026